

Message Text

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22/44

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-11 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-05 AID-05

IGA-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /083 W
----- 115168

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FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7390

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BANGUI PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAKAR PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LAGOS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE PRIORITY

USUN NY PRIORITY 391

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIBREVILLE 00288

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (MRN 288 VICE 272)

.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AO, GB

SUBJ: GOG RECOGNITION OF MPLA REGIME

REF: PARIS 94213 (NOTAL)

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED: POLITICAL BUREAU OF PDG (GABONESE SINGLE PARTY) MET FEB. 11 AND "RECOMMENDED" THAT GOG RECOGNIZE MPLA REGIME IN ANGOLA.

2. IN COMMUNIQUE FOLLOWING MEETING, PDG SPOKESMAN RE-CONFIDENTIAL

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CALLED GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF NEUTRALITY, EFFORT TO SOLVE

CONFLICT, ANDNSMPORTANCE OF CONSOLIDATING NATIONAL
UNITY IN ANGOLA, WHICH HAD CONSISTENTLY INSPIRED GOG
POLICY. IN ACCORDANCE WITH THESE PRINCIPLES, GOG HAD
ASSISTED ALL 3 LIBERATION MOVEMENTS PRIOR TO INDEPEN-
DENCE AND HAD ACTIVELY SOUGHT TO END CONFLICT IN MONTHS
IUIHREJ ON BASG OF RENT CHANGES IN SITUATION, PDG
NOW THOUGHT IT BEST FOR GOG TO RECOGNIZE NETO REGIMSXM

8. GOG COUNCIL OF MINISTER SCHEDULED TO MEET LATER
TODAY (FEB. 12), AT WHICH TIME IT WILL PRESUMABLY ACT
ON POLITICAL BUREAU RECOMMENDATION. END UNCLASSIFIED.

4. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL: IN DISCUSSION THIS MORNING OF
GOG DETISION, MINISTER/PRESIDENCY SYC CONIQUET EXPLAINED
RERGNITION W MEANS OF CONTRIBUTING TOWARD END OF
CONFLICT AND KILLING IN ANGOLA. SPEAKING PERSONALLY, HE
CONTENDED THAT MILITARY OUTCOME NO LONGER APPEARED IN
DOUBT, SO THAT CONTINUED ARMED STRUGGLE COULD PRODUCE
ONLY ADDITIONALLY
DEATHS BUT NO CHANGE FINAL RESULT, IN
CONSEQUENCE, HE FELT WISEST COURSE WAS TO ACCEPT THE
INEVITABLE AND RECOGNIZE MPLA IN HOPE THAT SUCH ACTION
COULD HELP BRING AN END TO ANGOLA CARNAGE.

5. COMMENT: BONGO ANNOUNCEMENT IN PARIS (REFEL) FOLLOWED BY
TWO DAYS HIS DECLARATION TO PRESS ON ARRIVAL IN
FRANCE THAT GOG RECOGNIZED "ANGOLA", BUT THAT "THERE IS
DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ANGOLA AND NETO GOVERNMENT."
RECOGNITION DECISION ALSO CONTRADICTS ASSURANCES GIVEN
ME FEB. 9 BY FONMIN OKUMBA (LIBREVILLE 0253) THAT GOG
POLICY REMAINED UNCHANGED.

6. THUS, DESPITE PRIOR EVIDENCE THAT BONGO WAS BEGIN-
NING TO HEDGE HIS BETS (LIBREVILLE 226 NOTAL) AND LOCAL
RUMORS THAT POLICY CHANGE WAS IN THE OFFING, TIMING OF
GOG DECISION SUGGESTS THAT BONGO WAS FINALLY INFLUENCED
BY SOMETHING IN PARIS CONVERSATIONS DURING PAST FEW
DAYS -- PERHAPS WORD THAT GOF SUPPORT FOR FNLA/UNITA
FLAGGING OR INDICATION MENTIONED REFTEL THAT IVORY COAST
AND POSSIBLY OTHERS MOVING TOWARD RECOGNITION OF MPLAMV.
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OAME JUSTIFICATION FRON CONIQUET AND VIRTUAL ABSENCE OF
JUSTIFICATION IN PDG POLIT BUREAU COMMUNIQUE ALSO SUGGEST
THAT SHIFT CAME DIRECTLY FROM PRESIDENT, AND CAUGHT
MINISTERS HERE SOMEWHAT OFF GUARD.

7. IN ABSENCE BOTH PRESIDENT AND FONMIN (LATTER VACTIONING
IN INTERIOR), WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO GET INSIDE STORY FOR
SOME TIME, BUT WILL SEEK EX POST FCTO EXPLANATION FROM ONE

OR BOTH FOLLOWING THEIR RETURN. FROM PRESIDENT AT LEAST,
SUCH EXPLANATION SURE TO BE ACCOMPANIED BY RENEWED PLEA
FOR US ARMS AID, NEED FOR WHICH HE WILL CONSIDER IN NO
WAY DIMINISHED BY HIS MOVE TOWARD NORMAL RELATIONS WITH
MPLA REGIME.STEIGMAN

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